



5th Sunday of Luke 16:19-31

The Lord said, "There was a rich man, who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, full of sores.

Crumbs of faith from a rich gospel:

"Neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead."

We are wondering today why so many of God's people are left outside unconvinced of the reality of the resurrection. We do not receive the peace that comes with that, we do not know how to forgive. There is a lesser desire to live now and no love for eternal life. And so we are left restless and with resentment in our souls. We all partake in this generation's disbelief of the good news while death has become customary. The Lord said that this disbelief has roots in our ignorance of the poor. We start believing first by approaching in a personal manner the beggar. From this relationship with the one whom we normally ignored, the faith is rekindled. At the mission, the Liturgies on Sunday are so rich and abundant in mercy and joy because of the distress of the people who come through the doors during the week. We are witnesses of this covenant love between the poor who are forgotten in the world and God who offers to them infinitely.

"Because of the distress of the beggars and the groaning of the poor, now will I arise, saith the Lord" Ps 11:5

"for not all poverty is holy nor riches sinful, but as excess dishonours the riches, so sanctity commends poverty." Ambrose

St Ambrose could not have said this better for us. We felt this at the mission so many times but we were not able to express it accordingly and we have been accused of hate for those who are not in need. But the reality is that in a rich land within a culture that has plenty of means, we lack one thing: holiness. The holiness can be encountered within those who know poverty and its evil effects on the human being. They live in the desert and are tempted against their will. Many fell and never recovered. Others, through the grace of God, become a witness of God's mercy for humankind. Lazarus, the Lord said, desired to be fed with the crumbs from the rich table. He could have desired to be fed in a different way, and God would have granted him accordingly. There is holiness in Lazarus that the rich man does not see and does not relate with. This is what we receive from the poor at the mission: holiness. The churches had a difficult time in North America because of this excess of riches in the land. In Canada, many monastery projects failed and few survived. If we partner with the poor, the reality of the resurrection would not leave many souls untouched. The church has to be with the poor because, as St Ambrose said, Christ is in heaven

with his saints and on the earth with the poor.

We learn from the poor at the mission because they teach us holiness in a land that is excessive in riches.

“... moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.”

There is an ongoing pain in Lazarus. A pain that never stops because of the wound that never heals. A pain that becomes a source of healing for the dogs, those who run rampant with hunger in the streets at night (see Ambrose). The holiness of the poor comes together with this wound that never heals, with this pain that never goes away. We see this so often and we are left all the time with no words of comfort for those who carry their pain in their hearts. It is the pain of being rejected and forgotten. The most harmful act of the soul. When love is betrayed and care is rejected. Being rejected they do not reject, being betrayed they do not betray. Through their pain they reach out to those who ignore. The wound never heals because they are never embraced to the level they were offended. That's why they reach out continuously to us. For them, this wound becomes a vessel for receiving the coming of Christ in heaven and a source of holiness for us here on the earth.

“who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table;”

Recently, we feel richer than we are at the mission. Rich for partaking of the body of Christ at the altar. This richness contrasts, especially these days, the people who line up for food outside. We feel rich, like the rich man, by handing out food to them. We see new people coming our way, whose names we don't even know. Some still have their faces covered with masks for fear of becoming more sick. To wait in line for food is degrading for the human being, father said. That's why we try now to spend some time outside and offer fresh orange juice and broken bread and chat with them and invite them inside. But the reality is that they are content with crumbs, like Lazarus and the Canaanite woman, because they know humility and spare much in order to live. It is for us that we need their presence, it is for us that we want to see and embrace this holiness. In the crumbs, they receive the entire body of Christ, who is distributed to all, through us .

Ps. This week I recognized through a mask the eyes of a person I saw last week at the mission. He made it for the first time inside the church and I chatted with him in the chapel. The holiness of the church touched so much his heart that he cried, for the first time he could remember, as he said. He was in church for the first time . He discovered the holiness that he desired in the form of goodness in his life. And the desire to be faithful to this goodness. He does not want anything else but only to be good and stay good. Out of trouble, he said. He was afraid that this would not happen.

Community Life

“When it is evening, you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.’³ And in the morning, ‘It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening.’ You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times. Mt (16:2-3)

* This painting was brought and left with us on Thursday afternoon. We don't know the reason and the person who painted it. The sky on Wednesday morning looked exactly the same, red and threatening. An older man from Scarborough said that, on the East coast, you never go boat fishing when you see a sky like that. The waves are big and can turn the boat upside down. At times, people still go, in spite of everything, because they are in need. Even he had to do it once and his boat almost sank. He knew other people who died because of this.

Later on, I asked an older wise person what he thinks about the new generation. “They do not know anything. They do not know what is happening around them.” He said that with a sense of concern and worry for them.

They do not know the signs, they go out on a morning with a red sky and they stay home when the sky is red in the evening. So the storm becomes overwhelming for them while the beauty of the blue sky is foreigner to them. They need guidance and understanding. And abundant mercy from the Lord.



*On Thursday, Julio brought to the mission the refugee mother from the house, together with her two children, a 7 year old daughter and a 5 week newborn baby. All the atmosphere changed in the room. The baby and the little girl brought so much life that made everyone happy. Julio said that the mother was happy too. It would be good for them too to come and visit us more often, he thinks. To meet people and talk to them. We need each other.

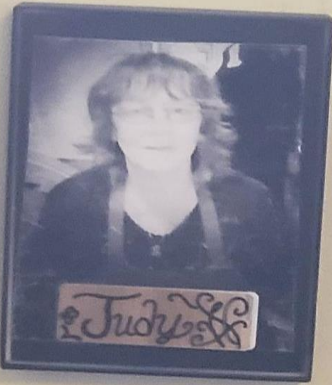
*Lito stayed with us for a few days. He works up North with the native people and he carries their wounds with him. Last time he visited us was before the pandemic. In the meantime he became Orthodox and grew a long beard, after having spent one year in the monasteries on mount Athos and in the Sinai desert. Otherwise, his spirit is the same. We thank him for all the gifts he brought

to us and we pray for his work in the North. He wants to be connected with us and to listen to the psalms sessions through Zoom.

Memory Eternal!

Judy died last week and we prayed in the chapel for her soul and at the end of Vespers on Wednesday. Joanna lit a candle for her. She went to visit her with father a few months ago, in Scarborough. She used to volunteer at the mission for 5 or 6 years. She stopped at the end when she became sick and would not recognize many people around her. Even then, her brother, Joanna said, would bring her at the mission to stay with us, to be around us. "I really loved her," Joanna said. She used to help in the kitchen and make some special sweets for us.

Memory eternal to Judy !



Mission church collections of 1 Sunday : Oct 23 2022 Donations \$120, Candle box \$27.05

Prayer list for the sick and those who have recovered:



Peter; Jose, George, Mihaela, Richard; Bernadette, Elisha; Kayla; Harley, Maria and Carlos; Omar; Elisabeth; Ben, Kim, Maria Becatam ;Seena; Tony, Nikitha; Dianne; Joy; Susie; Alex; Maurice; Lynn; Molly; Thomas; Varghese; Delia; Leela; Mary; Tanya; Basma; Aditi; Larry; Darius; Lori; Lisa; Cindy; Césare; Fatima; Debbie; Donald; Hermina; Råul; EK Thomas; Nebu; Evangelia; Sarah; Shelley; Bill; Ruth, Kristian and Frank; Maria; Binja ; Mike; Luke; Anusia; Lavalin's son; Sana; Father George Patrick, and Father Michael Miklos/Pani Karen Miklos; Dominique and her daughter; Mike; Luke; Arjuna; Joy; Susie; Alex; Lynn; Molly'; Thomas; Alex; Fathima; Frank; Chris; Evlokia; Mikayla and Luca; Karunawathi, Gloria, Vijekumari, Ronda, and Regina; Delia; Valerie; Tom; Traian; Peter; Marco; Kim; Tihomir; Kate; Payton Clark; Sana, and her family in Egypt; Isaiah; Mary; Sydney; Peter; Christine; Stephanie; Iulia; Jason; Sophia; Alexander; Charles; Tom; Paul; Phillip and his wife Juliet; Cristeena; Ann brown's daughter; Silvia; Jincy; Shiron Crisreen; Allain; Seena and her husband; Waheeda and children; Faizah; Shirin and her family; Cristina; Daniela, Jerry; Delia ; Ragaie; Victoria; Mike; Farida; Roselyne and family ; Ana; Cornelia; Leon; Jerry; Ocean; Gloria; Anne; Marina; Marie; Edemene; Joanna and family; Rejoice; Romana, Coline, Michael, Peter, Henry, George, Kelly; Tom; Marina; Kumari; Susan; child James; Aaron; Sylvia; Fr Jonathan; Tharshini and her two children; Ann Tyron and her family; Sandra Gomaz's children; Sameen; Sophia; Amy; Swetha and children; Charitha; Jitesh's parents; Demene; Carol; Gloria; Hawa Bibi; Vimaladevi; Fr. John and Pani Marie; Lynn; Michelle; Emanuel(Mani); Stefanie; Geoff; Joey; Evangelia; Sophia; Melanie; Tanya; Piper; Darius; Zamalk; Nelly; Nahla; Mira; Sandral; Brenda; Vol; Gomaz; ; Helen; Paul; Wafaa. Fr David; Pani Donna

Please pray for the deceased:

Judie; Joel; Peter; Fr Tony; Zatia; Tom; Fred; Shrin; Andre; Andree; Akhir; Arjuna; Dillon; Elena; Pani Mary; Rejoice`s mother; Edmund; Pani Eleanor; Fr John; Alexandru; Constantin; Robert; Fr Aurel; Georgi; Rada; Petre; Stela; William; Samuel; Debbie; John; Amy, Willie; Dave`s wife; Ana; Shirin`s cousin in Jordan; Father Lawrence; Dave; Anne Tyran`s father; Edith, Sr. Mary Magdalene; Joice; BettyAnn; James; Pauanasuy Kamthasang; Maria; Andrei; Agostina; Carminda; Vimaladevi's sister; Sri's mother; Carol's Mother and 23 year old nephew; Demene`s mother, Dalalzaki.

October 30 – November 6

Tuesday	8:30 am 7:30pm	Morning Prayer Psalms Study – via Zoom	Wednesday	8:30 am 12:30 pm 4:00 pm 6:30 pm	Morning Prayer Noon Hours Vespers/Dinner Bridges/Compline 8pm
Thursday	8:30 am 12:30 pm 2:00 pm	Morning Prayer Noon Hours Jesus Prayer	Friday	7:00 am 12:30 pm 2:00 pm	Orthros Noon Hours Jesus Prayer
Saturday	9:00 am	Morning Prayer	Sunday	6:00 am 7:00 am 8:30 am	Jesus Prayer Orthros Divine Liturgy

	<p>St Silouan Chapel at St John's Mission 155 Broadview Ave. Toronto, ON M4M 2E9 T: 416-466-1357 E: info@stjohnsmmission.org W: stjohnsmmission.org</p> <p>St Zoticos Orthodox Church at Good Neighbours Mission 193 Markham Rd Scarborough, ON M1J 3C3 T: 647-358-4105</p> <p>We are an apostolate of the ecumenical patriarchate "Mother Church of Christ's poor" under the Omophorion of Metropolitan Gregory of Nyssa</p>	
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St. Silouan Chapel, October 30, 2022

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